

REMARKS

The drawing objection concerning reference numeral "60" has been corrected by adding that reference numeral in Fig. 3.

The drawing objection with respect to Figure 1 P2 and Figure 4 F have been corrected by appropriate corresponding corrections in the Second Substitute Specification. The specification objection concerning region 20 at page 9, line 5 has been corrected to region 30.

Additional specification corrections have been made as requested by the Examiner. More specifically, as shown by the attached Exhibit 1, the term "volume resistivity" is more correct than the previously used term "volume resistance" and has thus been corrected throughout the specification. Also other additional minor corrections have been made in the Second Substitute Specification.

The Examiner rejected the previous claims 16, 17, 22-25, 27, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Terakawa. Claims 18-21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Terakawa. Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Terakawa in view of Enomoto. Claim 28 was indicated allowable if placed in independent form.

First it is noted that indicated allowable previous dependent claim 28 now corresponds to new claim 43.

New claim 33 is based at least in part on Second Substitute Specification disclosure page 6, lines 12-15; page 15, lines 22-23; and page 16, lines 7-15.

New claim 33 clearly distinguishes over Terakawa for the following reasons. Terakawa shows in Figure 2 an intermediate transfer belt 1 formed of a peripheral surface 9, a surface coating layer 7, an intermediate layer 5, and a base layer 3. However there is no disclosure anywhere in this reference that the base layer 3 or

the intermediate layer 5 comprises a layer which comprises an electrically-insulating synthetic and in which are dispersed conductive particles to provide an anisotropic conductive layer having an anisotropic property such that a first electrical conductivity in a thickness direction of the layer is smaller than a second electrical conductivity in a transverse direction of the layer.

The base layer 3 is a rigid resinous layer and electro-conductive. It contains a polyamide-amide resin as its main component. Carbon black which is an electro-conductive agent is added to the main component of the base layer 3 to adjust the volume electrical resistance value. There is no disclosure that it has the anisotropic properties claimed in Applicants' claim 33.

The intermediate layer 5 is an elastic layer elastomeric and ionic-conductive. It is made of polyurethane elastomer. There is no disclosure that it is an anisotropic layer having the properties claimed in claim 33. Finally the surface coating layer 7 is made of a resinous material containing urethane. The surface coating has a certain volume electric resistance. The surface coating layer is non-electro-conductive. There is no disclosure that it is anisotropic and has the characteristics claimed in claim 33.

Since claim 33 is directed to the properties of a layer, it would never suggest the invention to have a plurality of layers, and a plurality of layers together would not suggest claim 33 which calls for a layer having the recited anisotropic properties.


Dependent claims 34-46 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 33 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

The secondary reference cited by the Examiner Enomoto was only cited for a color image forming apparatus and does not show the recited layer having the recited anisotropic properties.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



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